

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A sync frame structure for use with an information storage medium having an area being divided by sectors, wherein at least one of said sectors includes one or more sync frames, and at least one of said sync frames includes a plurality of sync codes, with respect to an arrangement of the sync codes in the same sector, two or more sync codes are changed from a first pattern to a second pattern, and provided that the first pattern comprises a combination of successive three said sync codes, and that the second pattern is obtained by shifting the arrangement of the sync codes of said first pattern by one sync code.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Original): The structure of claim 1, wherein with respect to an arrangement of the sync codes in the same sector, a previous pattern comprising a combination of previous successive sync codes is provided, said previous pattern being configured to be used for detecting a frame shift in the sync frame, or for detecting an erroneous sync code detection.

Claim 4 (Original): The structure of claim 1, wherein said area being divided by the sectors includes ECC blocks each of which may serve as a unit of writing or re-writing, a guard area is provided between successive two of said ECC blocks formed on the information storage medium, and

one of said sync codes is provided at a leading portion of said guard area.

Claim 5 (Original): The information storage medium as defined in claim 1, wherein digital information is recorded in the area being divided by said sectors.

Claims 6-8 (Canceled).